The Lions' Pride

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Tucker Carlson Gives Keynote Address

By Kenna Dieffenwierth
Copy Editor

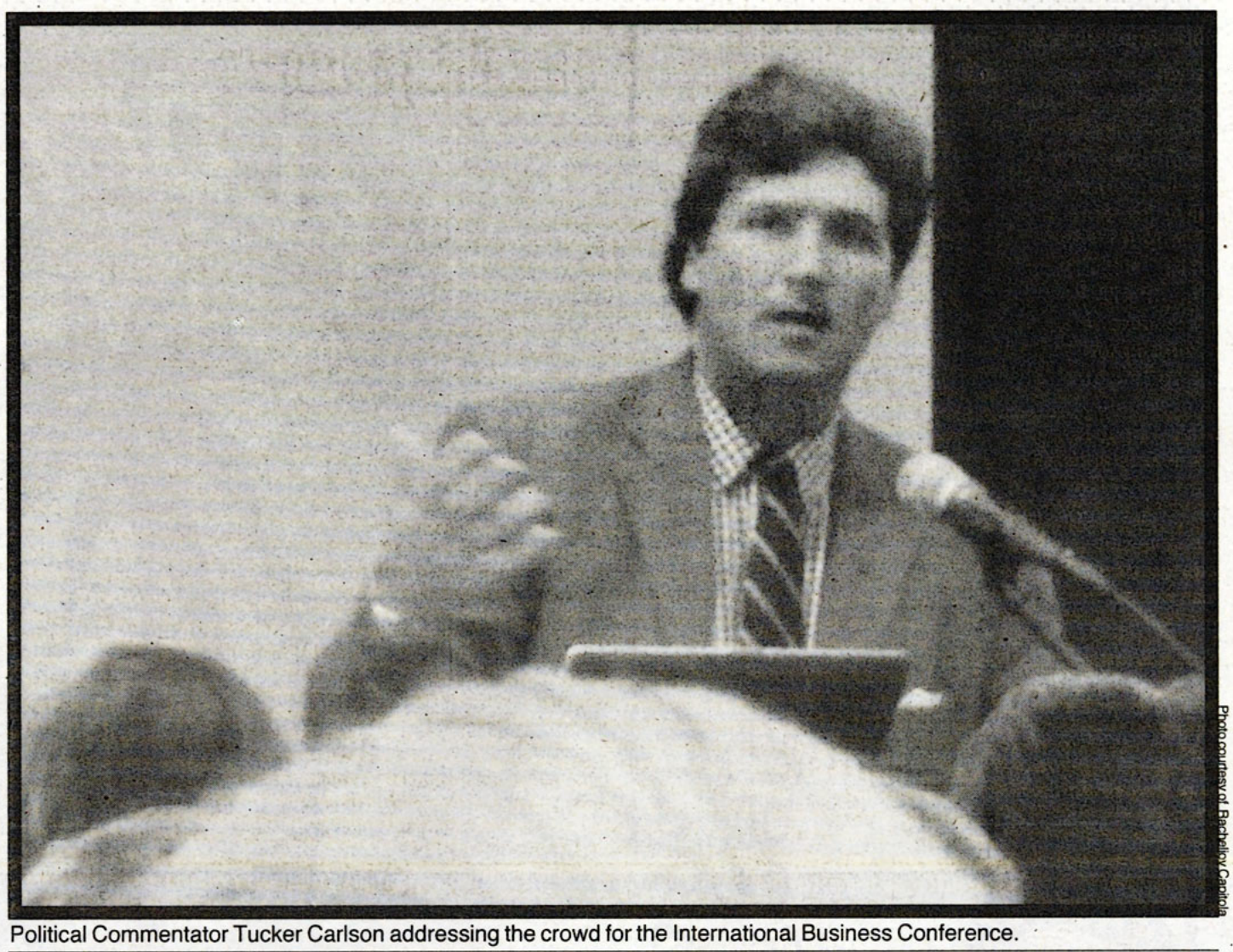

Photo courtesy of Rachelle Capriola

Political Commentator Tucker Carlson addressing the crowd for the International Business Conference.

The Fifth Annual International Business Conference at the University started with special guest speaker Tucker Carlson on Feb. 19. The theme for the conference was "Innovation and Internationalization."

Before speaking, Carlson was introduced as a conservative commentator and a journalist. He delivered a lively speech using humor, personal life stories and sarcasm to keep the audience engaged and entertained.

"Mr. Carlson was very entertaining and presented some very interesting information. He did an acceptable job of refraining from pushing his right-wing political rhetoric," said Dr. Tim Lowder, Associate Professor and Department Chair of Management and Business Administration.

Carlson spoke strongly on the political shifts happening in the U.S. He considers the country to be at a pivotal point with high levels of tension and anxiety in the political sphere.

One shift was the change in values and morals in society. According to Carlson, there is a loss of faith with less people attending church, and a loss of family values with less people getting married. He recalled a statistic that one out of every five citizens in the U.S. claim not to have a religion, and more people under 30 believe in socialism over capitalism. Carlson supports both democracy and capitalism, and he wants the majority to return to favoring these systems.

The point was made that people say they want change, but what they really want is incremental improvement.

"Anything worth having takes a long time to build," said Carlson.

He also mentioned the rapid change in demographics in recent years. This poses a danger to the Republican Party because most immigrants and minorities are voting Democrat.

"If people think you hate them, they don't like you," said Carlson.

He went on to discuss how Republicans need to work on appealing to immigrants and minorities if they want to get reelected. His prediction is that even Texas will eventually become a Democratic state if things don't change. This is a concern of the Republicans because the Democrats could gain too much power.

"I agree with him that the shifting demographics of the United States are resulting in a more moderate left-wing political platform. This shift is leaving the Republican Party 'out of touch' with the U.S.'s shifting demographic profile," said Lowder.

Carlson's philosophy is that when everyone agrees without any opposition, unwise decisions are made as a result. Anyone who possesses unchecked power will become corrupt. People should stimulate their minds with opposition so they don't become "political vegetables."

"He seems to really care about the future of our country, but appeared to be more concerned about the future of the Republican Party," said Lowder.

Students in attendance found Carlson to be comical and knowledgeable.

"I thought he was funny, and he seemed to really know what he was talking about," said Sophomore Lyndsey Pospisil.

His address was also very thought-provoking.

"Well, I thought that he presented some ideas in a different way than I had thought about them," said Sophomore Courtney Sullivan.

The conference lasted through Feb. 20

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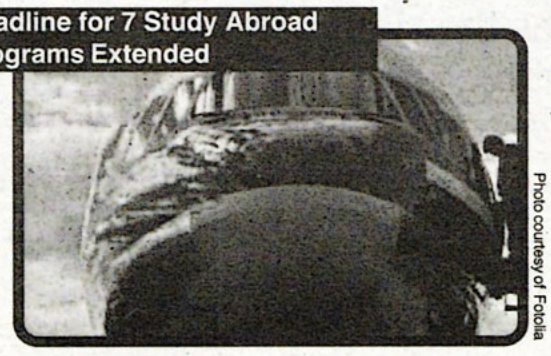

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Campus News

College Student's Guide to Getting Finances in Check

By Shawnee Arnett
Staff Writer

Mortgages, retirement plans and credit scores seem to be distant, which are rare thoughts or worries for the young college student. In a lifestyle where classes and tuition can take most of a student's attention, and while leisure and weekend plans trail not far behind that, it is often difficult to focus on the importance of fiscal stability and its effects on future financial goals. However, the future is closer than one may think.

"Life after college was definitely a culture shock for me. No one tells graduates the basics, so graduates are book smart while lacking in in basic knowledge." said recent University alum Amanda Butler.

When asked about the most immediate change from a college student's finances to a full time worker's finances, Butler said that there were many changes, but one in particular stuck out to her.

"For example, social security and Medicare finances are taken directly out of your full time paycheck; while this is common knowledge for the working individual, this may be new information to someone who has never encountered the system before," said Butler.

In actuality, a student's financial history, however limited, can affect immediate decisions or purchases as well. For instance, even with a cosigner, it can be quite difficult to get a student loan or a car loan if the student has poor credit history. Even if the loan is accepted, higher interest rates can often be expected. A late payment on a credit card bill not only increases the payment amount, but also has the ability to lower a person's credit score. With this in mind, it is important to maintain good credit and develop healthy financial habits not only for immediate goals like saving for a new car or budgeting weekly for leisure expenses, but also long term goals, like buying a house, preparing an emergency fund or saving for retirement. Here are a few tips on how to do this:

1. Budget your money wisely

This, of course, is the obvious first step, but so many people have issues with budgeting properly. The key here is to separate needs from wants, which is surprisingly difficult for some. Food and living costs (like rent) are needs, whereas any kind of leisure/recreation is a want. Take the cost of needs from a regular income, and budget a portion of what is left over for wants. With a specific budget amount, it is easier to cut out or limit specific costs that are less than necessary. For instance, going out to dinner with friends or a significant other is a want, and can be replaced with the cheaper alternative of eating at home. A cell phone is also a want, so there is the option of paying less by getting a cheaper basic package. Avoid making impulse purchases (those expensive sunglasses will be there another day if they are still considered important a week from now) and do not go grocery shopping while hungry (this leads to impulse food purchases—often unhealthy for one's wallet and body).

2. Start saving now

It's pretty obvious that the average college student's income (if any) will be small, but that does not mean that it is impossible or unnecessary to start a savings fund. It's a good idea put away at least 10% of a paycheck for savings. Treat it like a monthly bill, and remove the amount from a checking account, place it in a savings account, and pretend that it doesn't exist (at least for the sake of budgeting for monthly expenses). This way, there will be a bit of a monetary cushion for any future emergencies or long term expense goals.

3. Take advantage of freebies and discounts

Instead of spending excessive amounts of money on leisure or eating out, look for free things to do in the area. The University has an arcade room where students can play for free, and a variety of activities and clubs to get involved in. There is an assortment of art shows and performances put on by many of the University's organizations year round, and SLU TV Channel 96 often plays movies throughout the day (which is much cheaper than paying to go to the movie theatre on a regular basis). Check to see if there are student discounts for activities that do cost money (a surprising number of restaurants, theatres and services offer discounts for people with a valid student ID). Also use the student discount card issued by the University at the beginning of each school year to take advantage of freebees and coupons for local restaurants and services.

4. Be cautious with credit cards

Credit cards can be both helpful and burdensome at the same time. On one hand, when used properly, credit cards can help establish credit history and raise one's credit score. They can also provide access to extra money in case of an emergency. On the other hand, credit cards can help a person spiral into debt and ruin a credit score if they are not used properly. If it is decided that a credit card would be a good resource to have, remember that a credit limit is not free money to spend at leisure. If a credit card balance is not paid in full within one billing statement, interest will accrue. If a person charges more than he or she can afford to pay back, this is how credit card debt can begin. However, being responsible and only charging for small purchases that can easily be paid at the end of the billing statement month can make for a pleasant experience and a chance to raise or maintain a high credit score. Make sure to look around for the best deal when considering a credit card; not all cards are equal.

5. Make sure to take advantage of financial aid

Financial aid packages come standard when filling out the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA), but make sure that the FAFSA is the first step, not the last. It is best to take advantage of federal aid first (particularly the loans; stick with federal loans and avoid all private loans unless it is an absolute last resort). It is then a good idea to apply for as many scholarships and grants as possible. Contact the Office of Financial Aid and use resources such as *fastweb.com* to search for scholarships and grants. Focus on the smaller awards as much as you would on the larger awards; a few small scholarships may be just as effective as one large one. Any amount whether big or small is helpful in reducing out of pocket tuition expenses or student loan amounts.

6. Make sure to pay bills on time

Believe it or not, a small bill that is a couple of weeks late can negatively impact a credit score. It is important to make sure that money is budgeted to pay off regular monthly bills, and that a savings fund is established to help during times when there are unexpected expenses. If there is ever an emergency in which it will be difficult to pay a bill, contact the billing department of the service provider immediately to see if an agreement can be worked out. Staying proactive with bill payments will not only help a person avoid lower credit or a possible issue with a collection company down the road, but will also help a person maintain a positive relationship with his or her service provider.

According to Butler, perhaps the most important part of maintaining good finances is being informed and adaptable to change.

"Do not be afraid to ask questions. This is the time in our lives to save money for the rest of our lives, and that will come with its own set of hardships and new experiences to encounter." said Butler.

With these skills and a willingness to prepare, financial soundness is not too far from reality.

Photo from Wikkimedia Commons

Study Abroad

Studying Abroad: What are you Waiting for?

By Kortney Rohrback
Staff Writer

With upcoming trips to Germany, Czech Republic, Canada, and Ecuador, Saint Leo students can literally go to the corners of the world. Different kinds of trips range in length and purpose, from week-long SERVE trips to longer educational tours. Saint Leo also has programs in or close partnerships with countries where students can study abroad. Greece, Tanzania, Thailand, Brazil and New Zealand are just a few of the hundreds of places students can explore and learn about.

"It can change your life, and it can open your eyes to a different world. I studied abroad as a sophomore and it changed my life more than anything else. I realized the world was not this small place I grew up in," said Professor Randall Woodard.

Studying abroad gives students the chance to explore, take advantage of opportunities, and experience the world like never before. Students are sent off to be fully immersed into a foreign culture that can teach them everything from their place in the world to the meaning of life.

> Studying abroad gives students the chance to explore, take advantage of opportunities, and experience the world like never before.

Studying abroad can also teach students things like a different language or another country's uniqueness, and provides opportunities to learn about oneself in ways unimaginable. For those who have traveled to different countries, the experience has provided many insights and lessons both big and small.

"I love it here at Saint Leo, and I would recommend studying abroad to anyone. It really helps you grow as a person. It's definitely helped me gain a lot of confidence and taught me to take advantage of every opportunity you get," said Janet Small, a Saint Leo student from Ireland.

Many students would love to go, but they think they are faced with obstacles such as money, time, and eligibility. However, studying abroad is always affordable with help. Students often believe it is best to wait till senior year to study abroad; however, this is not advised and can potentially mess up graduation dates. Many students simply haven't been given the right information or good advice regarding studying abroad. Also, some students are not so sure it's for them due to the common myths and exaggerations such as money troubles or homesickness.

"It sounds cool, but I am not so sure it's something for me. I think I would like it but I would end up wanting to come home early," said Freshman Eric Podolski.

For students who are unsure about studying abroad, they are encouraged to talk to advisors, professors, and the international students on campus. Students have lots of room for choice and opportunity that they are not aware of.

For information on study abroad, contact Paige Ramsey-Hamacher, Director for Multicultural and International Services.

University Offers "Terrorism In Israel" Session on Campus

By Amber Comfort
Contributing Writer

Later this year, the University's Graduate School of Criminal Justice, in association with Security Solutions International, will be offering a course called "Advanced Homeland Security – Terrorism in Israel." The session will take place May 16-24 in Israel. Graduate students in Criminal Justice are strongly encouraged to attend; however, other majors can also greatly benefit.

"Courtney Sullivan (featured below) explained that she learned how counter-terrorism methods are used in Israel instead of anti-terrorism concepts."

Photo given from Courtney Sullivan

Director of Adjunct Relations, Robert Sullivan, who taught the course and chaperoned the trip last year, explained how Political Science majors can benefit by gaining knowledge about the political parties in Israel that closely mirror the United States' government. Also, Religion majors would have the opportunity to visit the birthplace of monotheistic religions and Psychology majors could be exposed to a different mindset of how to obtain happiness when there's a constant threat of destruction.

All students that wish to expand their understanding of the Holy Land and the Middle East or gain a once in a lifetime experience should consider attending. No other college or university participates in this opportunity.

The course teaches the best of what Israel has learned in dealing with the constant threat level they endure. Despite everything, Israel is one of the safest countries in the world to visit. The course teaches how this is possible with the threat of terrorist organizations and hostile countries motivated to attack.

"It was a once in a lifetime experience," said Courtney Sullivan, a student that attended the session last year.

Courtney Sullivan explained that she learned how counter-terrorism methods are used in Israel instead of anti-terrorism concepts. Israelis use different methods to emphasize preventing terrorism instead of focusing on what to do after an attack happens. In the country, there are different procedures set up in place to keep schools safe and different ones to keep malls safe.

"Homeland Security is the study of keeping your homeland safe from terrorists. So the best place to study that is the place where people have been doing that for 5,000 years in Israel," Robert Sullivan added. He believes the best way to learn is through experience within this controlled environment.

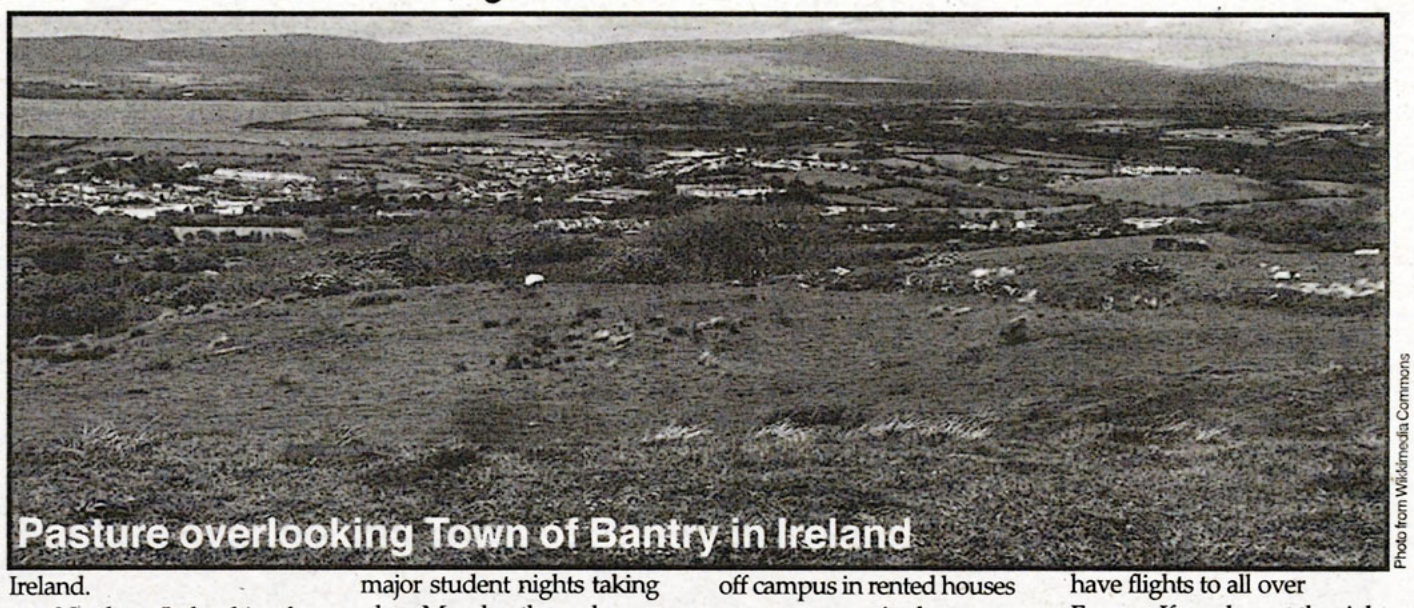
Special topics that will be covered are: public safety, transportation, critical infrastructure, schools and government buildings. Participants that attend this session will have the chance to hear from the Ministry of Education on what the exact policy is in Israel and discuss this with Israel policy makers. Destinations will include visiting Haifa, the Northern Border, Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, Bethlehem and the Dead Sea.

Costs for this course are $2,790. Participants can pay an extra $120 for the excursion to Masada. If the student wishes for a single room, it is an additional charge of $650. The fee covers all in country transportation and tours, hotel accommodations, meals, and security costs. With all field trips hosted by the University, it is policy for students to submit a signed waiver. Prior to attending, a valid U.S. passport and international health insurance is required.

Study Abroad

North Ireland: Study Abroad Destination

By Janet Small
Contributing Writer



Pasture overlooking Town of Bantry in Ireland

Photo from Wikkimedia Commons

If you're considering studying abroad, Northern Ireland is a great destination. Students of Saint Leo University can study for one semester or a full year tuition-free as an Irish American Scholar. This is only offered to colleges and universities who participate in the Study USA program with Northern Ireland as a thank you for hosting students who come to Saint Leo to study for one year.

Students from Northern Ireland have been studying abroad at Saint Leo University since 1994 as part of a scholarship program called Study USA. If a student earns a place on this program, they travel to the U.S. and study business modules for one full year at a participating college and university, as well as completing a business project with their home institution.

In exchange, a limited number of American students from each Study USA university or college are allowed to study in Northern Ireland. In order to be considered, American students must have a GPA of 3.2 or higher. Unlike Study USA participants, any American student participating in this program can choose which subject area they wish study, for which the tuition fees would be waived. However, students are expected to cover their own living expenses and other costs while studying in Northern Ireland.

Northern Ireland is a lot smaller than what students at Saint Leo may be used to; it has a population of only 1.7 million, around the same as the city of Philadelphia. In the capital city, Belfast, there are around 270,000 people, and 60,000 of those people are students.

There are various universities in Northern Ireland, such as Queen's University Belfast and University of Ulster, which has a number of campuses across the province, with locations in Jordanstown (near Belfast), Coleraine, and Magee in Derry. Queen's University has over 26,000 undergraduate students enrolled, and students can expect to be in lectures with up to 300 other students.

Queen's University is only a 15 minute walk from Belfast City Centre. Belfast has become a major attraction for shopping, dining and social life. The city has a variety of nightlife each night of the week, with the major student nights taking place Monday through Thursday. Unlike Saint Leo, almost everything in the city is within walking distance.

At Queen's you will not be living on a campus like Saint Leo. The accommodation for Queen's University is separate from all its teaching centers, which are located in buildings all around the student area of Belfast. Most students who study at Queen's or Jordanstown choose to live off campus in rented accommodation in popular student areas in Belfast. Some first year students choose to live in accommodation provided by Queen's called Elms Village. There are a huge variety of ways to become involved, with over 150 clubs and societies catering to over 5,000 members.

The University of Ulster has campuses across the country. Their largest campus is Jordanstown, a 30 minute commute from Belfast City's center. The majority of students who attend here live off campus in rented houses or apartments, in the same areas as Queen's students. However, housing is available on campus. Anyone applying to live on campus would have the opportunity to live with both students from Northern Ireland and international students. Jordanstown is renowned for its sports center, and students travel from all over Ireland to study at this campus.

Say goodbye to a meal plan! There are virtually no cafeterias in any campus in Northern Ireland. Most students make their own meals each day. There are also plenty of options for eating out in the surrounding areas.

Public transportation is good throughout the most part of Northern Ireland and relatively inexpensive. Many students choose to go home for the weekends, so students would have plenty of opportunities to visit students' homes and explore Northern Ireland further.

There are also two airports in Belfast, which have flights to all over Europe. If you buy at the right time through budget airlines, you can have a low cost trip to some major European cities.

Northern Ireland is an area with rich cultural and historic sites. Those who study in Northern Ireland have the opportunity to visit a variety of museums and heritage sites, as well as learn about the history of Northern Ireland by taking a tour through Belfast. Derry has been named City of Culture for 2013 out of the whole United Kingdom. It is also a region famed for its beauty, including the North Coast, the Giants Causeway and the City of Derry.

The Republic of Ireland is home to popular tourist destinations, and Dublin is less than a two hour bus journey from Belfast. It is easy to make a trip to explore the Temple Bar area, Trinity College, or the Guinness factory.

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Arts & Entertainment

Jimmy Fallon's New Tonight Show

Photos from Wikimedia Commons

By Thomas Buckley
Staff Writer

Whenever Americans sit down to watch the news it tends to be very negative. However, many Americans stay up to watch late night TV talk shows, which put a satirical spin on the news and make fun of pop culture. One of the most popular late night talk shows is "The Tonight Show."

"The Tonight Show" began airing on NBC in 1954, making it the longest still running entertainment show in the U.S. When the Tonight Show began, it was titled "Tonight Starring Steve Allen," and was hosted by Steve Allen in New York City. Allen hosted "Tonight" for only three years, then left to host a show on primetime.

After Allen's departure, NBC decided to change the format to match more of a news show, similar to the TODAY show which airs every morning; they called the new show format: "Tonight! America After Dark." It was widely unpopular, so NBC producers decided to revert back to the shows original format, and brought in a new host Jack Paar. Parr only lasted five years and was then replaced by Johnny Carson.

When Carson took over from Paar, the show received its current name: "The Tonight Show." Carson hosted the tonight show for 30 years in New York and California before turning it over to most recent tonight show Jay Leno in 1992. In 2009 Conan O'Brien took over after Jay Leno, but lasted less than a year because of a timeslot conflict with NBC executives. Leno returned to host the Tonight Show after O'Brien left.

For more than 20 years, Leno has brought late night laughter to millions of Americans, and on April 3, 2013 it was announced that Leno would retire in 2014 and Jimmy Fallon would take over.

On Feb. 17 Jimmy Fallon officially became the host of "The Tonight Show." Fallon stayed in New York, where he had hosted "Late Night." Fallon's first episode as the host of "Tonight" drew over 11 million viewers. The first episode included guests such as Will Smith, whom he did a dance with, and the band U2, who performed on the roof of the skyscraper where the "Tonight Show" is filmed. Among Smith and U2, a number of other guests appeared on the show to support Fallon. When Fallon said he wanted his $100 from his friends who bet him that he would never host the "Tonight Show," a number of celebrities including Mariah Carey, Lindsay Lohan, Kim Kardashian, Joan Rivers, and Lady Gaga made their way on stage and dropped 100 dollar bills on his desk. Before hosting "The Tonight Show," Fallon hosted "Late Night with Jimmy Fallon, " and was on the cast of "Saturday Night Live." As a big "Tonight Show" fan, I'm very excited about #JimmyFallon taking over. I think he's gonna be great!

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Recipes

Making Mrs. Patricia's Collard Greens

By Brianna Llewellyn
Contributing Writer

"Growing up poor sometimes, we could not always afford pork so instead we ate chicken or beans with white rice. But on the good days we ate collard greens and ham hocks," said Mrs. Patricia before finally releasing the recipe to her mouthwatering southern styled collard greens.

Some people may use canned collard greens instead of fresh collard greens only because the latter is sometimes a bit more time efficient. But if you are seeking something home-style and authentic, it's best to invest in a few fresh bundles of collards.

What you need:

- 2 fresh bundles of collard greens
- 1 ham hock
- 2 tbsp. of vegetable oil
- 1 onion (medium), diced into small pieces.
- Apple cider vinegar to taste
- Seasoned salt to taste
- Chopped cloves of garlic to taste
- Cup of chicken broth
- 2 tbsp. of butter

If you are using ham hocks like Mrs. P, you will need to thoroughly clean your meat by cutting off any excess fat and running it under some warm water. Use the diced onions, seasoned salt and chopped cloves to season the meat. Let your meat marinate in the seasonings. Chop the ham hock into fine pieces. Using a frying pan, heat up the vegetable oil on a low heat for about 5 minutes. Add in your seasoned ham hock chunks and allow them to sauté at a low heat for about 45 minutes or until your ham hocks are tender. Clean the bundles of greens by thoroughly rinsing them in warm water. Drain off the excess water, strip the stem away from the soft green leaf and cut up all of the collard greens into bite sized bits and pieces. Place the freshly cut greens into the pot with the ham hocks. Add a broth that you like into the pot of meat and greens. Some types of broth include: chicken, pork, beef and turkey.

Meatless Eats: Black Bean, Lentil Mushroom, and Tofu Burger

By Wendy Legorete
Distribution Manager

Summer is already behind us, but only by a smidgen — people still find themselves getting the craving for a juicy burger. And whether you are a newly-converted vegetarian or just someone who is trying to cut down on the consumption of red meat, that craving can be difficult to satisfy. Fortunately, there are some quality vegetarian burger recipes within reach.

Black Bean Burger

What you will need:

2 (16-ounce) cans of black beans (rinsed and drained)

1 medium bell pepper (cut into quarters)

1 medium jalapeno pepper (seeded [unless you want a truly spicy burger], and cut into halves)

½ teaspoon each of ground coriander and cumin

¼ teaspoon each of ground black pepper and paprika

1 teaspoon kosher salt

1 clove of garlic

1 tablespoon olive oil

½ cup rolled oats

½ cup shredded carrots

Preheat the oven to 300° F, and then line a baking sheet with a piece of parchment paper (or spray the sheet with cooking oil if you don't have any). Set aside. Place all the ingredients, except the black beans, into a blender (or food processor) and pulse for 30 seconds, scraping down the sides of the pitcher (or bowl) when deemed necessary. The consistency of the ingredients should mimic the appearance of a good chunky salsa.

Add about a can and a half of the black beans and continue to pulse for another 30-60 seconds until the beans begin to look like a paste that holds the ingredients together.

Transfer the mixture to a large bowl and blend in the remaining black beans by hand (it seems to be easier than using a spoon). Divide the melded ingredients into 6 equal portions and mold to the shape of a decent-sized disc. Place on the baking sheet about an inch or so apart.

Bake for 40-45 minutes until the edges become crisp and the patties are cooked all the way through. Allow to cool on the baking sheet for 10 minutes before placing on a bun.

Lentil Mushroom Burgers

What you will need:

½ cup dried brown lentils, rinsed and picked over

1 cup water

8 ounces of white mushrooms

1 tablespoon each of olive oil and soy sauce

2 minced garlic cloves

2 tablespoons red wine

½ cup vegetable broth

½ cup old-fashioned oats

Salt and pepper (to taste)

Preheat the oven to 350°F and lightly grease a baking sheet. Set aside.

Combine the lentils and water in a small saucepan over medium-high heat. Bring to a boil, and then allow to simmer over low heat for 10 minutes. Remove from the burner and drain. Allow to cool slightly.

Add the mushrooms and lentils together into a blender. Pulse until coarsely chopped.

Heat the olive oil in a large skillet over medium-high heat. Add the garlic and cook for about 30 seconds, stirring constantly. Stir in the mushroom-lentil combination and cook for another 4 minutes until browned, stirring constantly.

Add the red wine to the skillet and cook until it has evaporated. Stir in the broth, soy sauce, and oats. Continue to cook, stirring constantly, until the juices have been absorbed. Remove from heat. Season with salt and pepper (to taste) and allow to cool until you are able to handle the burger mixture.

Divide the burger concoction into 4 patties, pat them into a disc shape, and then place on the baking sheet. Bake for 20-30 minutes or until the patties are browned and cooked through. Allow to cool before consuming.

Tofu Burgers

(Note: This recipe calls for eggs and cheese, so vegans and the lactose-intolerant individuals should avoid it. Also, the meal is not ideal for someone trying to watch his or her cholesterol levels.)

What you will need:

1 (12-ounce) package of firm tofu

2 teaspoons vegetable oil

1 small onion, chopped

1 celery stalk, chopped

1 beaten egg

¼ cup shredded Cheddar cheese

½ cup vegetable oil (for frying)

Salt and pepper (to taste)

1. Place tofu in the freezer 72 hours before preparation begins. Thaw the tofu out by bringing a large saucepan (filled ¾ of the way with water) to a simmer. Leave the tofu in its package and set it in the water, leaving it alone for about 20 minutes.

2. While the tofu is thawing, heat 2 teaspoons of vegetable oil in a small skillet. Sauté the chopped onions and celery until they are soft and lightly browned. Place in a medium bowl and set aside.

3. When the tofu is thoroughly thawed, squeeze out the excess water. Finely chop up the tofu and place into the bowl with the onion-celery mixture. Blend in the egg, cheese, salt and pepper (for taste) until thoroughly combined.

4. Heat a large skillet over medium-high heat and pour in the ½ cup of vegetable oil. Drop the tofu mixture into the skillet in 6 equal portions. Flatten with the back of a spatula to form patties. Fry for 5 to 7 minutes on each side, until golden.

5. Remove the patties from the heat and allow to cool slightly before eating.

Technology

Google Glass is Turning Heads Across Nation

By Katrina Weicht
Contributing Writer

The kind of world that has computers with accessibility at the blink of an eye is not as far away as some people think. Google Glass is a project being tested in real world applications that allows the user to wear a display attached to a frame, similar to glasses, with all the functionality of a smartphone.

Editor-in-chief of The Verge news, Joshua Topolsky, had an Explorer edition of Google Glass and was a beta tester in 2013. He posted his experience online from the very moment he met the project director Steve Lee and lead project designer Isabelle Olsson.

The main point of the project was to get information quickly and keep people connected without the distraction pulling you away from the real experience. The project team speculated that most people nowadays spend a lot of their time looking down at their phones and observe events through the display on various devices. Google Glass was designed to eliminate this.

"See through the eyes of the future," said Sophomore Jordan Miller.

Once turned on, the small eye display reads "ok glass" and gives the time. To wake it up, the user activates it with voice commands. It can be told to take a picture, record a video, Google anything you want, give directions in real time, give you email and text message notifications, translate instantly, video chat, and more.

There are also things a user is not advised to do. According to another review of the product posted by A.J. Jacobs on Esquire, the team doesn't encourage you to read large amounts of text or stream movies or TV on the device. His overall review was that these are all possible with Google Glass, provided you find the right source that will accommodate the small display.

Glassware, the term given to applications made for Google Glass, can only be made by people who use and understand the device. One of the applications launched on February 6 is Refresh – an application that accesses social media and gives an instant profile on the display for a person. The user connects their calendar and social networks to the device and uses all this information to provide birthday reminders or to prepare a profile of someone who's scheduled for a meeting.

Google's team is aware of privacy concerns with the device, such as people not being aware of a current video being taken, and wants non-Glass users to be reassured. Whenever Google Glass is in use, the display is illuminated and any attempt at taking a picture or recording a video comes with a command or a hand gesture.

Additionally, the Developer Terms of Service has made it clear that no facial recognition Glassware will be allowed and that the device currently has nothing of the sort built in to it.

As for the specs of the device, it has an Android operating system, 1GB RAM, 12GB of usable storage and it's synced to Google cloud storage. Photos have a quality of 5MP (same as the iPhone 4) and the videos are 720p. Its connectivity capabilities are Wi-Fi and Bluetooth.

For typical use, the battery for Google Glass lasts about one day, while some features take up more battery power. The frame of the product has a button on the side to turn it on, while the frame itself is a touch pad. The device comes with a specific micro USB cable and charger that was designed and tested to preserve the Google Glass lifespan.

"I think they are cool. I would buy a pair if I could afford them," said Sophomore Jasmine Collins.

The Explorer is $1,500, and the consumer's device is projected to be less than $1,500, but no definitive number has yet been released. The expected release date of Google Glass for general consumers is 2014.

I Tried, I Bought, I See the End of an IPod Era

By Jocelyne Hilary
Contributing Writer

Apple has dominated the technology market, with their products such as the iPhone, MacBook and iPad. These products are highly publicized as sleek new designs are continuously released. Apple products are everywhere. Even on campus, a wide array of students can be seen at the Lion's Lair or the Library typing away on their Macs or casually socializing on their iPads or iPhones. But with all this emphasis on the newer products, one of such as Samsung and than the Walkmans, didn't require CDs or tapes, and were much smaller.

For almost ten years now, the iPod has become a part of many people's everyday routine. With many redesigns and limited editions of certain iPods such as for HIV awareness, these devices came in all shapes and sizes, each suited to an individual's personal style.

Now it is slightly harder to find someone with their iPod out. The popularity of smartphones, especially the iPhone, has made it more convenient for people to listen to music on their phones. This was even predicted by Steve Jobs himself when he had described the iPhone as "the best ipod we've ever made" back in 2007 at its launch. This growing trend has now made iPods more or less obsolete. For the many people living on their smartphones, iPods are no longer necessary. Eliminating the iPod means that one has less electronic devices to charge and carry around. The smartphone makes it possible to do everything from one device.

The iPod touch, for example, is almost identical to an iPhone, except for the fact that it is thinner and lacks the ability to call.

Following the publication of recent profit reports, Apple chief Tim Cook reflected on figures that indicated a dip in iPod sale profits.

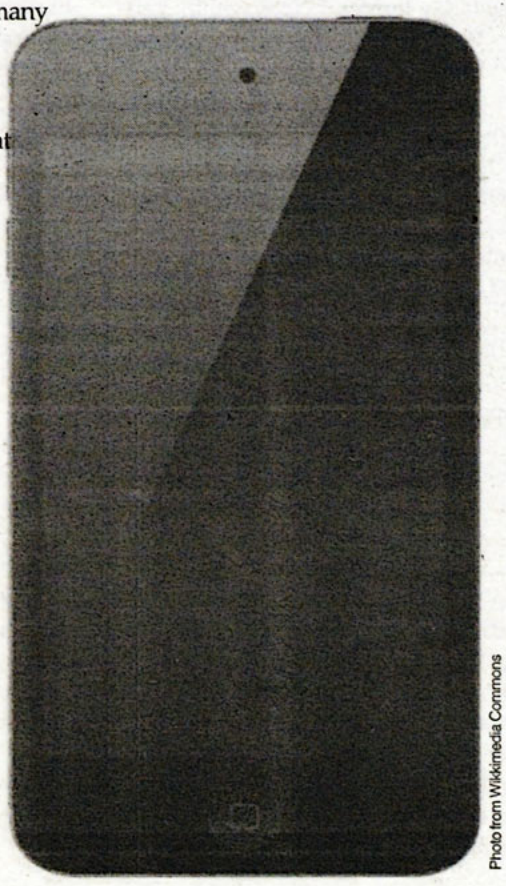
"I think all of us have known for some time that iPod is a declining business," said Cook.

This is particularly sad news given that most of us had grown up wanting an iPod for our birthday or Christmas. Now the very product that had played a large contributing role in catapulting the brand, has become the bench player to its other sibling products.

"People do tend to use their phones now, from what I've noticed. But I've actually reverted back to using my iPod instead because that way I have more space for apps on my phone, save battery life and iPods also store more music," said Stewart.

Yet despite disappointing numbers, the iPod had pushed many consumers to stretch their budgets upon its hiatus. Many people were so intrigued and wanted to get in on the trend that they had no problem opting to buy an iPod over other mp3 competitors. Apple's classic product is still at the forefront of its competitors in audio music. Furthermore, iTunes, the counterpart to the device has boosted legal music download among owners.

For now the iPod looks like its holding , just because of its edge over other mp3 competitors, but with Apple constantly releasing new versions of iPhone, its only natural that consumers would rather use their old iPhones as a medium for music rather than purchasing an iPod.



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